NORTH ATLANTIC TROPICAL DISTURBANCES OF 1941

By HOWARD C. SUMNER

[Weather Bureau, Washington, January 1942]

The hurricane season of 1941, near normal in other respects, was of exceptionally short duration. During the 37 days between the 11th of September and the 18th of October, 6 tropical disturbances developed in rapid succession, an average of approximately 1 storm every 6 days. The 21 disturbances of 1933, the highest number ever recorded in a single season during the 55-year period of record, had an average of about 8.5 days between storms.

The first and last storms of the past season were of slight intensity with only minor damage being reported. The remaining disturbances all developed winds of full hurricane force. They took a combined toll of over 60 lives, and wrought crop and property losses estimated at well over $10,000,000. An unusual situation developed September 23 when 3 hurricanes (II, III, and IV on the accompanying chart) were in progress simultaneously at widely separated points, one in the eastern Caribbean, one in the Gulf of Mexico, and another in the North Atlantic off Hatteras.

The only disturbance associated with the Caribbean Sea area traversed the entire length of that body of water from east to west, maintaining hurricane winds for almost the entire distance. It then moved across the coast of Nicaragua and emerged into the Gulf of Honduras with undiminished intensity. After crossing additional countries of Central America and the Bay of Campeche it moved inland, for the third time, and dissipated south of Tampico, Mexico. Of the remaining disturbances, two crossed the Texas coast, two moved inland in Florida, and one spent its energy over the North Atlantic, with no destructive winds being reported on land.

Two-thirds of these disturbances developed winds of hurricane force. This proportion, though considerably above normal, is not unusual when all or most of the disturbances develop during a short period at the height of the hurricane season.

A synopsis of the tropical disturbances of 1941 is given in the following table. Their tracks, numbered I to VI chronologically, are shown on the accompanying chart.

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[Synopsis of tropical disturbances of 1941 (number of storm in table corresponds to number of track on accompanying chart)]

Storm	Date	Place where first reported	Coast lines crossed	Maximum wind velocity reported	Lowest barometer reported	Place of dissipation	Intensity	Remarks
I	Sept. 11–15	About 120 miles southeast of Port Eads, La.	Texas	Force 8 ENE, a ship.	1002.7 millibars (29.61 inches), a ship,	East Texas coast	Not of hurricane intensity.	No property damage or injuries reported (A).
II	Sept. 18–26	About 180 miles south of Port Eads, La.	do	Force 12 NE., a ship, 83 miles per hour, Texas City, Tex.	970.5 millibars (28.66 inches), a ship.	Southern Quebec Province.	Full hurricane	4 lives lost; $2,000,000 property damage; crop losses estimated in excess of $5,000,000 (A).
III	Sept. 18–26	Off east central Florida coast.	None	Force 12 ESE, a ship.	995.3 millibars (29.39 inches), a ship.	Near 38° N., 63° W.	do	Caused considerable delay in North Atlantic shipping (A).
IV	Sept. 23–30[1]	Between Barbados and St. Lucia.	Nicaragua, British Honduras, and Mexico.	100 miles per hour (estimated), a ship.	992.9 millibars (29.32 inches), a ship.	Eastern Mexico	do	47 lives lost at sea; 3 drowned at Cape Gracias; heavy crop and property damage in Central America (A).
V	Oct. 3–12	About 300 miles north of Virgin Islands.	Florida	123 miles per hour, Pan-American Dinner Key base.	964.4 millibars (28.48 inches), Cat Island.	South of Bermuda	do	8 lives lost in the Bahamas and Florida; considerable property and crop damage in Florida, Georgia and the Bahamas (B).
VI	Oct. 18–21[2]	About 100 miles off the west Florida coast.	do	45 miles per hour WSW, a ship.	1002.4 millibars (29.60 inches), a ship.	North Florida	Not of hurricane intensity.	Torrential rains wrought some flood damage in northern Florida (B).

[1] A late special report received from Mr. Albert Krog, Radio Operator of the Standard Fruit & Steamship Co., Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, states that on September 27, about 20 miles up the Rio Coco from Cape Gracias, the barometer on the schooner *Bravo* fell to 28.25 inches (uncorrected), at about 3 p. m. Farther inland from the Cape, at Boom, the central calm of the hurricane lasted from 5 to 6 p. m.

[2] Squally weather had moved across the southern Bahamas and through the Florida Straits during the preceding 2 days, but no definite cyclonic circulation could be detected until the evening of Oct. 18.

Complete reports of these disturbances may be found in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW: (A) September 1941; 69: 264–266. (B) October 1941; 69: 303, 304.

TYPHOONS AND DEPRESSIONS OVER THE FAR EAST, OCTOBER 1941

By BERNARD F. DOUCETTE, S. J.

[Weather Bureau, Manila, P. I.]

Depression, October 18–23, 1941.—About half way between Yap and Mindanao a low-pressure area became a depression moving in a west-northwesterly direction, October 18 and 19. The afternoon and evening observations from stations near San Bernardino Strait indicated that the storm was intensifying, yet the morning of October 20 showed only a depression, central over Bondoc Peninsula, which had moved westerly across southern Luzon during the night. This weak center moved westerly into the China Sea. As a depression of minor importance, it moved northwest about 200 miles after leaving Verde Island Passage, then westerly to Indo-China where it disappeared.

Two lives were lost on Marinduque Island as this depression crossed the Archipelago. Considerable rain was reported from stations of southern Luzon and the Visayan Islands.

As this center was approaching southern Luzon, October 19, Virac, Catanduanes Island reported 751.2 mm. (1000.5 mb.) indicating that the storm was intensifying to typhoon strength. However, during the night, nothing lower than the above value was reported as the storm center moved across the Archipelago.

The upper winds over Zamboanga and Cebu changed from the east quadrant to the southwest quadrant on